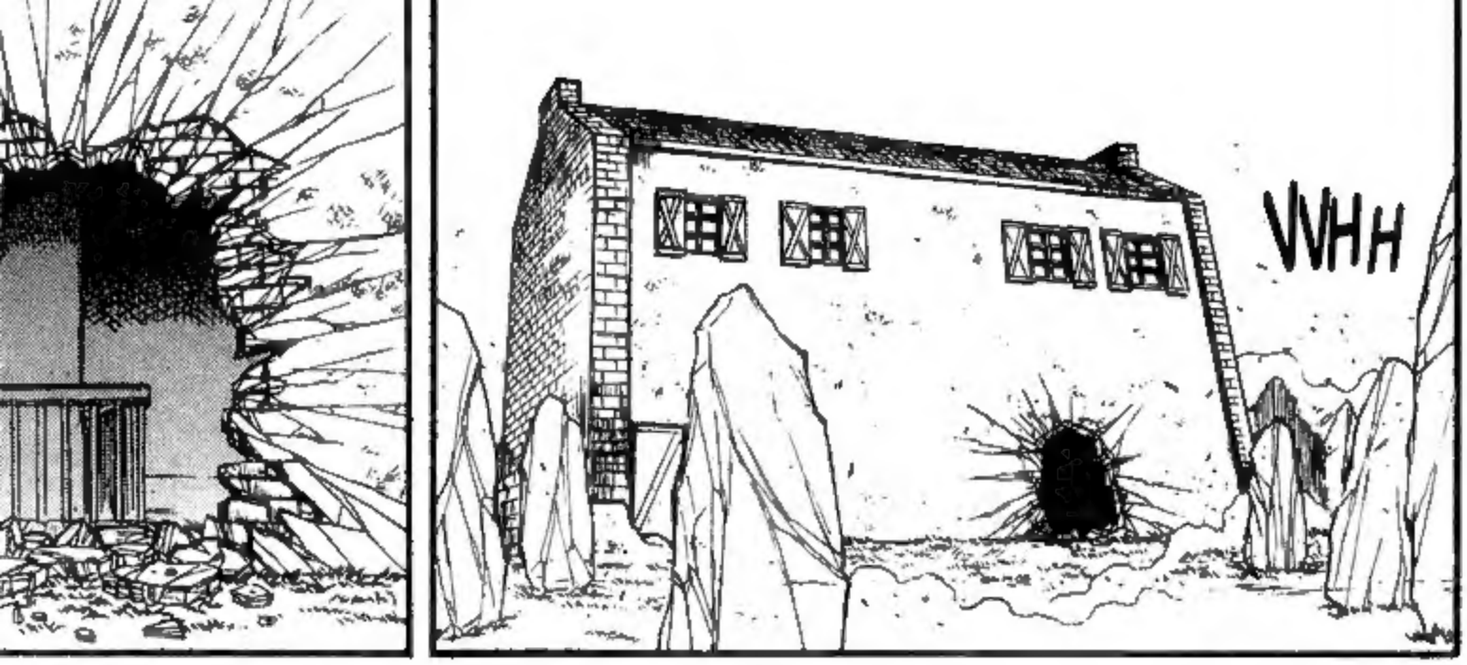
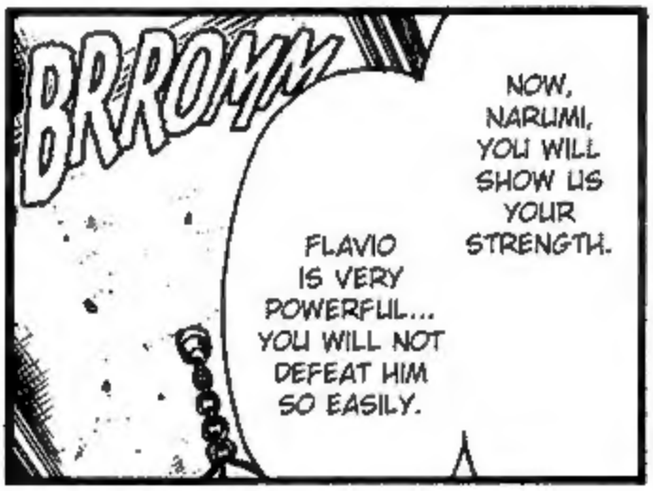


ACT VII: KARAKURI * A MAN

"SCREAMS"

DOON
OH!
IT HAS BEGUN ...

NARUMI DID A GOOD JOB!
WE WERE ABLE TO CLEAN THE PLACE UP, RIGHT, OLYMPIA?

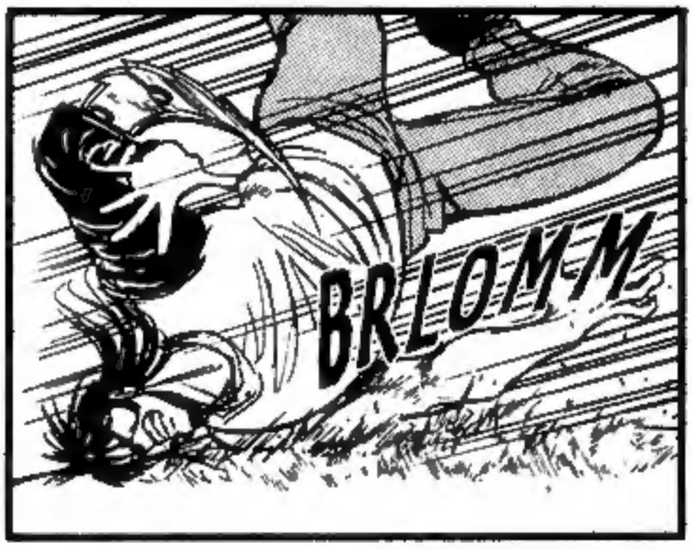

BRROMM
NOW, NARUMI, YOU WILL SHOW US YOUR STRENGTH.
FLAVIO IS VERY POWERFUL... YOU WILL NOT DEFEAT HIM SO EASILY.

DOOO

SHUT UP! BESIDES, I'M NOT A SHIRO-GANE!
POOR SHIROGANE! YOU'VE SEEN THAT I CAN'T BE BEATEN!
VLANG
BLNG
HA HA HA! IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN YOU'RE HERE JUST TO BE KILLED!
YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME WITH THAT LITTLE POCKET KNIFE ON YOUR ARM?!
HA HA HA! VERY FUNNY! SO YOU'RE HERE JUST BECAUSE SOME BRATS WERE BAWLING?!
YOU CHAINED KIDS TO YOUR ARM! THEY WERE SCREAMING IN TERROR!
ZZANN
BELIEVE ME, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
WOOM

SBAAF
SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, PUNK?!

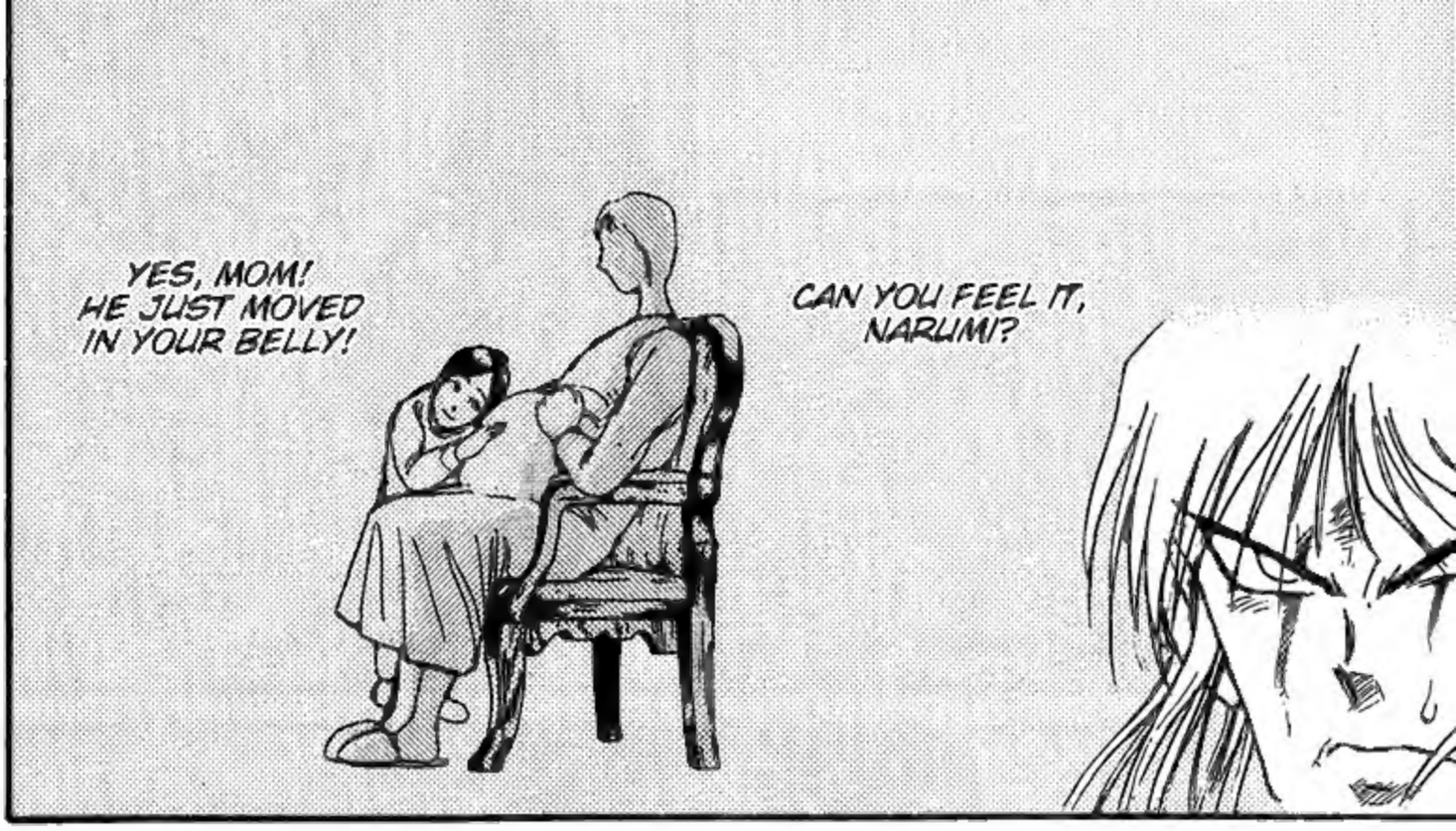
GO

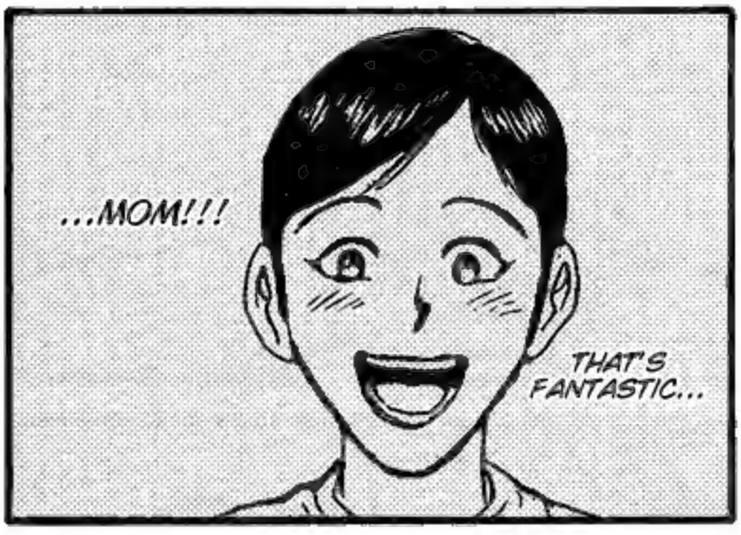

BRLOMM

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RISK YOUR LIFE FOR SOMETHING SO INSIGNIFICANT?
BUT... WHY ARE YOU SO HUNG UP ON THOSE SCREAMING BRATS?

FOR A MERE HUMAN, I GOTTA ADMIT THAT YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG.
AMONG ALL THOSE I'VE KILLED AND DRUNK BLOOD FROM, I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE YOU.

GUH...
WHY?!
I DON'T KNOW, MYSELF.
IT WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT...
I COULDN'T DRINK MILK AND I WAS PARTICULARLY BAD AT SPORTS.
WHEN I WAS A KID, EVERYONE WAS MEAN TO ME!..
I WOULD BE WHINING ALL DAY LONG...
I WAS ALWAYS CRYING...
BUT ONE DAY...
...A PAINFUL EVENT MADE ME DECIDE TO LEARN KUNG FU.
HO HOOO! YOU STILL WANNA FIGHT ?!
DAN
ZA-AAAN


YES, MOM! HE JUST MOVED IN YOUR BELLY!
CAN YOU FEEL IT, NARUMI?

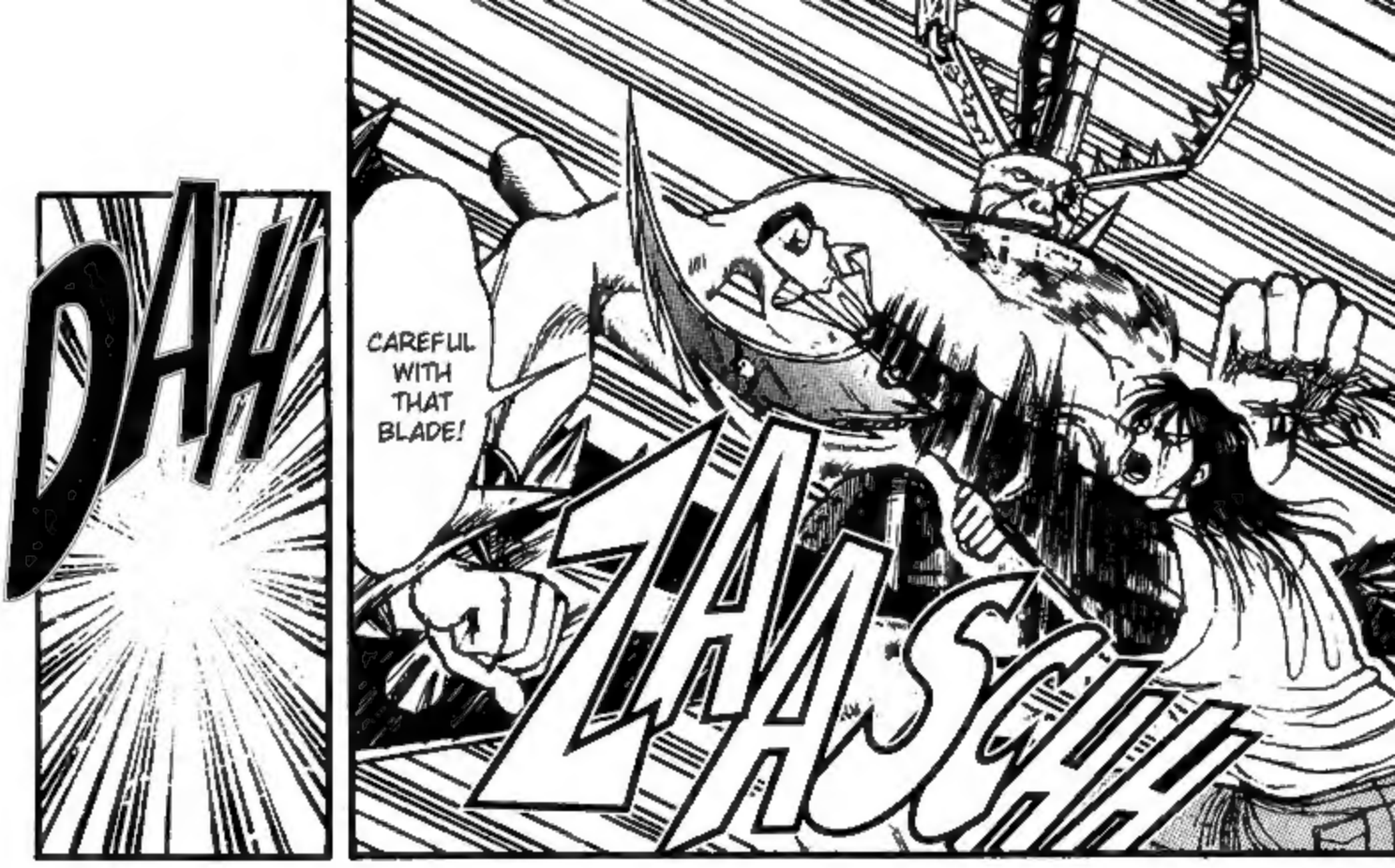

...MOM!!!
THAT'S FANTASTIC...

WE DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A BOY OR A GIRL YET...
BUT WHAT'S SURE IS THAT YOU'LL BE ITS BIG BROTHER.

BUT COMPARED TO ME, YOU'RE JUST A SPECK OF DUST!!!
HA HAAA! NICE MOVES!
FOR A HUMAN, YOU'RE VERY STRONG!
BLING
VLONG
CLANG

FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL HAVE TO STOP CRYING ALL THE TIME! YOU'LL HAVE TO BE STRONG!

SSAH!
YOU'RE WEAK! COM-PLETELY AND UTTERLY WEAK!!!
YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN KUNG-FU?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, BOY?
THAT'S WHY...
I...
I...
I'M GONNA BE A "BIG BROTHER".
...
YAAAH !!!
...WOULD LIKE TO BECOME STRONG!

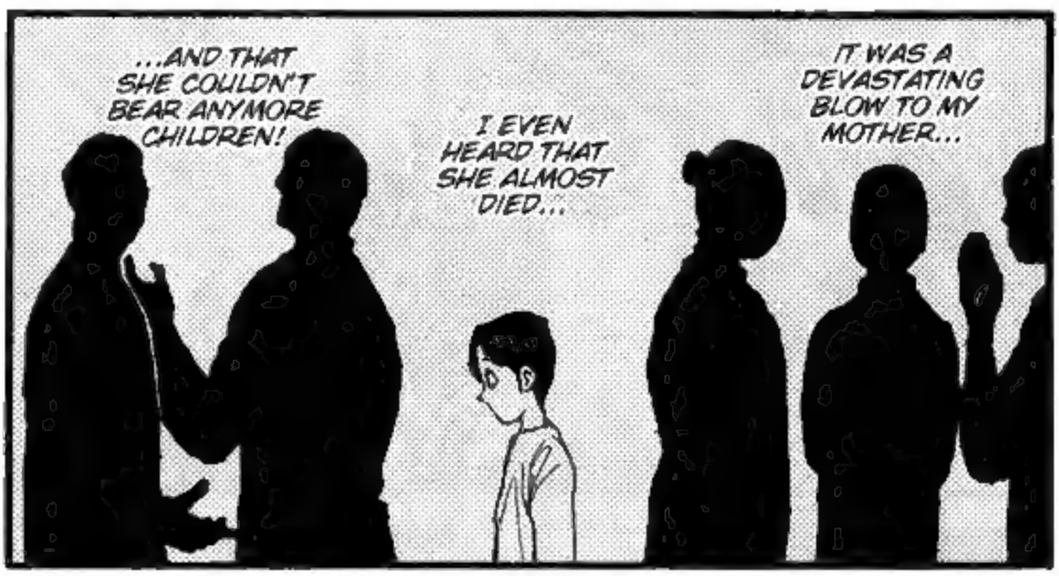

DAH!
CAREFUL WITH THAT BLADE!
ZHASCHH

BRIAAAMM

BE STRONG ...
MADAM ...

CHHH

...THE SITUATION.
YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT...

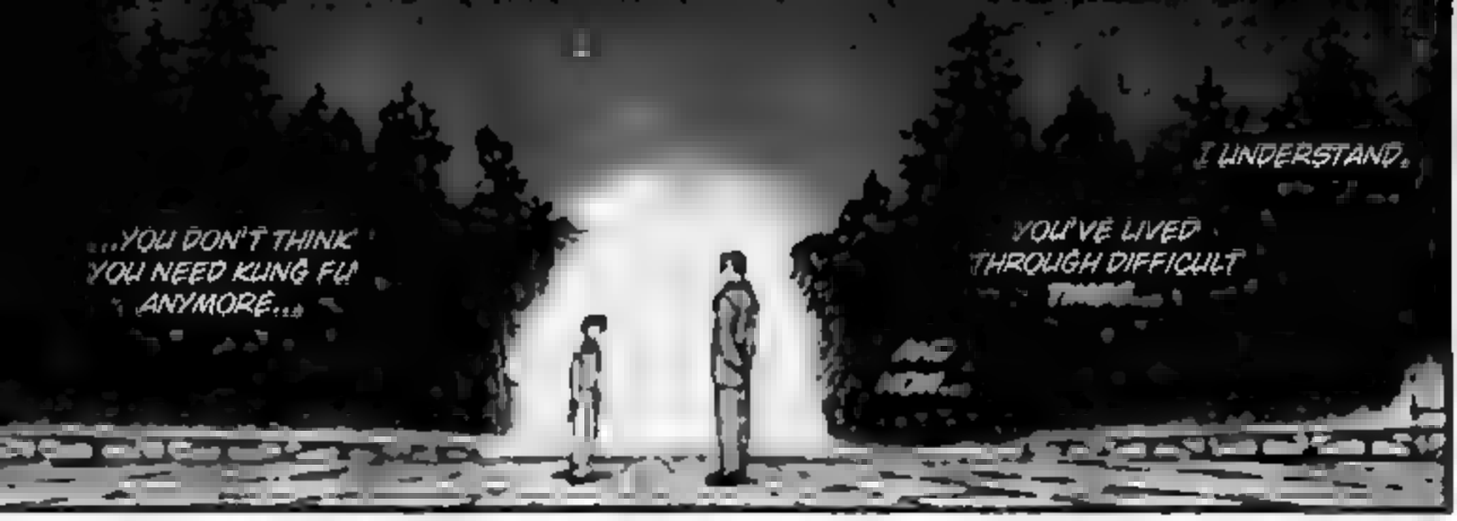

...AND THAT SHE COULDN'T BEAR ANYMORE CHILDREN!
I EVEN HEARD THAT SHE ALMOST DIED...
IT WAS A DEVASTATING BLOW TO MY MOTHER...

THIS IS GETTING BORING... SO I'M GONNA FINISH YOU OFF!
IT'S OVER.
YOUR STRENGTH IS GONE.
TON
SPAA

...IF WE DON'T MIX THEM REGULARLY WITH HUMAN BLOOD.
AS YOU KNOW, OUR VITAL FLUIDS DON'T WORK VERY WELL...
THEN I'LL SUCK UP YOUR BLOOD!

IN FACT, THEY'RE JUST LIKE US!
THE SHIROGANES WHO HUNT US ARE JUST SURVIVORS! VICTIMS OF ZONAPHA'S SYNDROME! THEY MANAGE TO CLING TO LIFE ONLY BECAUSE OF THE AQUA VITAE!
EXACTLY!

WE'RE THE ONES... WHO GIVE YOU LIFE.


...YOU DON'T THINK YOU NEED KUNG FU ANYMORE...
I UNDERSTAND.
YOU'VE LIVED THROUGH DIFFICULT
AND NOW...

DEATH FOLLOWS LIFE AND LIFE FOLLOWS DEATH.
LISTEN TO ME, CHILD FROM JAPAN... EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE IS BUT A TRANSFORMATION.

THE SOUL OF YOUR BROTHER WHO WAS TO BE BORN...

ALL SOULS ARE BUT TRANSIENT TRAVELERS CROSSING OUR UNIVERSE.

...MAY ALREADY HAVE APPEARED IN ANOTHER BODY.

AH!

...SO THAT ONE DAY, YOU MAY MEET THIS BROTHER THAT YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN.
WING-HAI, YOU MUST BECOME STRONG

YOU MUST BECOME STRONG, TO PROTECT "ALL LIVES"!
WAAAAA!
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING, HUMAN?
ZZOO
OONNN
I DON'T LIKE IT
THE SHIRO-GANES!
I DON'T LIKE ANY OF IT!
GOOHH
YOU AUTOMA-TONS...
THIS FAKE ARM...
I DON'T LIKE IT!
DAN!

ALL OF THAT IS JUST CRAP!!!
ALCHEMY... THE AQUA VITAE...
HUMANS THAT KEEP ON LIVING THANKS TO A MIRACULOUS ELIXIR!
MACHINES THAT LIVE BY SUCKING HUMAN BLOOD!
YOU ALL PLAY WITH HUMAN LIVES...
...AS IF THEY WERE JUST TOYS!
...POOR IDIOT!!!
HA HA! YOU'RE LOSING IT!

IT'S OVER FOR YOU! HERE'S MY FINISHING BLOW!
ZZAAAN

...TO BE READY FOR THE DAY I'D MEET MY "LITTLE BROTHER" IN THIS WORLD.
I LIKE ..
..TO GO TO THE CIRCUS.
MASTER...! I WANTED TO BECOME STRONG...

...TO BE STRONG!
I WANTED SO MUCH...
COOL!

AND YET...

I...
...COULDN'T DO A THING!
ONE LIFE ESCAPED FROM MY HANDS...
...AND DISAPPEARED!
AAAHHH!!!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE REAL VALUE OF LIFE!!!
GOH!

BRRAAANNG

BLAAM

SPA

I'M LOSING ALL MY FLUIDS!
I NEED... HUMAN BLOOD !!!
GUWAH! IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
I CAN'T BE BEATEN... BY A HUMAN!

WHAT IS IT?
AAAH!
AH!

...WHY THE CRIES OF THE KIDS AFFECTED ME SO MUCH.

TOM
I-THINK I UNDERSTAND NOW!

DAD
FOUND SOME!

AAAH!

...ARE ACTUALLY MY OWN!!!
THOSE KIDS' TEARS THAT GET ME SO RILED UP...

AAAHHH!!!

WAAAA!

...I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN EVER AGAIN!!!
FROM NOW ON...